

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1521

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, DM

SUBJ: 30TH PLENARY UNGA STATEMENT BY DAHOMEY PERMREP ADJIBADE

REF A. USUN 4607 B. USUN 4543 C. USUN 4529 D. USUN 4390

1. ADJIBADE'S STATEMENT AT UNGA ON 25 SEPT (REFS B AND C) WAS ALREADY ON MY AGENDA FOR NEXT TALK WITH DAHOMEY'S FORNMIN ALLADAYE WHICH I REQUESTED BY FORMAL NOTE ON OCT 1. WHEN I GET TO SEE HIM, WHICH MAY NOT BE SOON (USUALLY SEVERAL WEEKS IS MINIMUM WAIT; INTER ALIA, HE SPEND-
ING TIME ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS), I INTEND TO NOTE (A) EXTREMELY MARGINAL CHARACTER OF DAHOMEAN INTEREST IN KOREA, CAMBODIA, ET AL (UNTIL RECENTLY DAHOMEAN GOVTS HAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED THAT INTEREST TO BE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT) AND (B) INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN ADJIBADE'S STATEMENT OF SEPT 25 WITH TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONS AND GENEROUS US SUPPORT FOR DAHOMEY'S DEVELOPMENT. DURING LB CALL ON ALLADAYE, WHO IS A PURE-BRED CHAMELEON IN ALL MATTERS, I ALSO INTEND SEEK CLARIFICATION OF STATEMENT HE MADE IN A RADIO INTERVIEW HERE SEPT 26, THAT: "THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, LOANS, ETC...IS USED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO KEEP US UNDER CONTROL; IN FACT, IT IS A DIABOLIC SYSTEM OF THEFT WHICH WAS BORN AT TIME OF SLAVERY..." (THIS STATEMENT WAS BURIED IN HIS REMARKS
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AND NOT HIGHLIGHTED IN GOVT PROPAGANDA.) DEPT WILL RECALL THAT

IN MONEY TERMS, THE PREPONDERANT PORTION OF US ASSISTANCE
HERE IS IN FORM OF LOANS.

2. COMMENT: PROVOCATIVE DECLARATIONS OF ADJIBADE AND ALLADAYE
IN PAST FEW WEEKS REFLECT SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN
CONDUCT OF THE MILITARY GOVT THAT CAME TO POWER HERE
IN A COUP THREE YEARS AGO. THIS GOVT TOOK RELATIVELY MODERATE
LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS FOR A YEAR OR SO, ALTHOUGH DRIFTING
STEADILY TOWARDS RADICALLY NON-ALIGNED POSITION, WHICH IT HAS
FOLLOWED SLAVISHLY FOR LAST YEAR AND A HALF BUT WITHOUT BEING
DIRECTLY NASTY TO ANY SPECIFIC WESTERN COUNTRIES. RECENT FLURRY
OF SCURRILOUS REMARKS, AIMED MAINLY AT U.S., WOULD APPEAR
TO REFLECT AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CREDENTIALS AMONG RADICALS
OF NON-ALIGNED BLOC FOR ROLE AS THEIR BLACK AFRICAN "SPOKESMAN."
NO DOUBT AN IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE IS TO MUSTER ENOUGH SUPPORT
FOR DAHOMEY'S CANDIDACY FOR ONE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
SEATS AVAILABLE ON NEXT ROUND (REF D). ADJIBADE'S PAST AGGRESS-
IVENESS SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN AS AN EXERCISE UNDERTAKEN BY PRES-
IDENT KEREKOU TO WIN DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR PSS UNPOPULAR REGIME
BY CLAIMING THAT DAHOMEY HAS, UNDER HIM, ASSUMED A PROMINENT
POSITION IN WORLD AFFAIRS.

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